E-MAN
CHARLTON
PORTFOLIO
BLUE BEETLE
CAPTAIN ATOM

Eleventh-hour addendum: As we were going to press our specially- commissioned Paul Gulacy full-pager had yet to surface from the quagmire of the U.S. Postal System. Hopefully it will surface in time for Charlton Portfolio II.

--the Management

What you now hold in your hands is the product of some ten months of all-night typing sessions, long distance phone calls, meandering deadlines, postal strikes, and other unbelievable goings-on.

It's a special presentation. It's a portfolio. And it's a tribute to a company that doesn't get half the recognition it should. It's also a showcase for the artistic abilities of some very talented people.

And there's more on it's way!

This is a bit of an experiment. It's not exactly a prozine. It's something more than a fanzine. Call it what you will, we sincerely hope you enjoy it. Your comments are eagerly awaited.

And in two months we will return to our more familiar format with all the art and features you can stand. And at a mere fifth the cost of this special double-issue.

In the meantime, why not pick up a Charlton comic? They're put out by good folks.

See you in the funny books.

--the CPL staff

We get by with a little help from our friends...

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Jim Aparo
Pat Boyette
'Doc' Larry Brnicky
Harry Broertjes
John Byrne
Dave Cockrum
Nick Cuti
Steve Ditko
Scott Edelman
Paul Gulacy
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cpl
presents
344-468
NO.6
APR.
CDC
BLUE BEETLE
12¢
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
B. B. meets the SPECTER

the BLUE BEETLE

SCRIPT BY: D.C. GLANZMAN
PENCILED BY: STEVE DITKO

INKED BY: STEVE DITKO

LETTERED BY: A. MACHINE

A SPECTER IS HAUNTING HUB CITY!

IN HUB CITY, AT THE PRIVATE RESEARCH LAB OF DR. FAROL, A DEMONSTRATION IS TAKING PLACE.
THIS IS YOUR FIRST LOOK AT OUR INVISIBLE MAN EXPERIMENT, PROFESSOR RODOR. BUT TED WANTS TO SEE IT EVERY TIME WE TEST THE SUIT! IT REALLY FASCINATES HIM!
I KEEP THINKING OF WAYS I COULD ADAPT IT TO BE USED BY THE BLUE BEETLE! THERE ARE SOME INTERESTING POSSIBILITIES!
INCREDIBLE! IS IT CAPABLE OF COMPLETE INVISIBILITY?

NO! THAT'S WHY WE'RE GOING TO DROP THE PROJECT! THE POWER UNITS IN THE BELT PROVIDE THE CIRCULATION OF RAYS OVER THE BODY BUT THE PATHS OF THE RAYS CANNOT BE MADE INVISIBLE NOR CAN THEY BE REDUCED MUCH LESS THAN THEY ARE NOW. ALL RIGHT, DR. JAMES, YOU CAN TURN IT OFF AND RECORD ALL REACTING DATA!
NOW COME ALONG, PROFESSOR, I'LL SHOW YOU SOME OTHER PROJECTS WE'RE WORKING ON!
I WONDER...IF I USED THAT DEVICE ON THE BUG...I'D HAVE AN ALMOST INVISIBLE SHIP...IT'S SOMETHING TO CONSIDER!
I CAN'T FINISH THE TOUR, I HAVE TO GET BACK TO MY OWN LAB! PROFESSOR RODOR, I HOPE I'LL SEE YOU AGAIN BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE CITY!
I'LL TRY, TED. I HEARD YOU ARE DOING SOME VERY IMPORTANT RESEARCH! I'D LIKE TO SEE WHAT YOU'VE DONE!
BUT AS TED KORD IS LEAVING...!
THERE'S A RUCKUS COMING FROM ...AA!
AND WHEN HE COMES TO...
WHO?... WHAT HAPPENED??
THAT'S WHAT WE'RE HOPING YOU CAN TELL US! DR. JAMES IS DEAD AND A SO-CALLED SUIT OF INVISIBILITY IS MISSING! WELL, KORD!
YOU DON'T SERIOUSLY THINK I HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH ALL THIS?
YOU'VE SHOWN A GREAT INTEREST IN THE SUIT AND YOU KNEW IT WAS GOING TO BE DEMONSTRATED TODAY! THE WHOLE STAFF HAS ALIBIS AND ANYONE OF THEM COULD HAVE TAKEN THE SUIT AT ANY TIME! NOW YOU COULD HAVE ARRANGED THIS WITH AN ACCOMPLICE TO MAKE YOU LOOK ABOVE SUSPICION! YOU'RE THE ONLY LOGICAL SUSPECT!
2

THE ONLY OTHER POSSIBILITY IS JACOBS, THE JANITOR, BUT HE DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THE SUIT! HE NEVER ENTERS THE LABS DURING THE DAY AND HE CERTAINLY COULDN'T HAVE HANDLED YOU AND DR. JAMES BY HIMSELF!
LT. DUNN, YOU'RE ALL WRONG ABOUT TED! HE HAS THE ABILITY TO CONSTRUCT A SIMILAR SUIT ANY TIME HE WISHES!
IT'S THE FIRST RULE OF CRIME, DR. FAROL. A GUY MAKES A GRAB FOR THE TOP PRIZE TO SPARE HIMSELF PUTTING IN THE EFFORT TO EARN IT ON HIS OWN!
YOU DON'T KNOW TED! I'LL STAND BEHIND HIM ALL THE WAY!
I'VE GOT NOTHING DEFINITE TO HOLD HIM ON, BUT HE KNOWS HOW HE STANDS WITH ME SO I'LL BE SEEING HIM...*OFTEN!*
LATER THAT DAY...!
SCIENTISTS DON'T CARE WHAT DANGER THEY EXPOSE TO THE WORLD! THE THREAT OF NUCLEAR ANNILIATION ISN'T ENOUGH! NOW THEY MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR AN INVISIBLE KILLER TO RUN LOOSE AMONGST US. THAT NORD'S BEHIND IT, I KNOW IT, I FEEL IT IN MY BONES!
BECAUSE YOU'RE ALSO A SCIENTIST, TED, YOU'RE BEING SWITCHED FROM VICTIM TO AN EVIL MASTERMIND!
WHILE AT A NEARBY BANK!
HE'S HERE...THAT INVISIBLE KILLER!
DON'T ANYONE TRY TO STOP ME!
EEK! WHAT'S THAT?!
IT...IT'S LIKE AN EVIL SPECTER!
HA! HA! I SCOOPED UP THE MONEY BEFORE THEY GOT OVER THEIR SHOCK AND NOW THEY'RE IN A PANIC!
OUT OF MY WAY, FOOLS, OR YOU DIE!
EEEK!!
IT'S A NIGHT-MARE! A...A HUMAN VOICE FROM THAT ...*THING!*
TRACEY, THAT'S THE STOLEN SUIT! I'VE GOT TO GET AFTER HIM!
NO, TED, HE'S GOT TOO BIG A LEAD! IF YOU DON'T CATCH HIM, WHO WOULD BELIEVE YOU REALLY WANTED TO STOP HIM?
THE WAY I PLANNED MY GET-AWAY, I'LL LOSE ANYONE WHO COMES AFTER ME!
3

WE LOST HIM AT THE JUNK-YARD, LT. DUNN, BUT WE'RE KEEPING UP THE SEARCH!
CALL IT OFF, HE'S GOTTEN AWAY! WELL, LOOK WHO TURNS UP AS A SPECTATOR! THIS CAN'T BE JUST A COINCIDENCE!
WHAT COULD IT BE THEN, LT.?
IT COULD BE TO ESTABLISH AN ALIBI OR TO SEE HOW THE OPERATION WENT TO PLAN FUTURE JOBS ...WHY ARE YOU HERE, KORD?
IF YOU'RE CONVINCED OF THAT, THEN NOTHING I SAY WILL MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE TO YOU! COME ON, TRACEY!
THAT'S HIM, THAT'S KORD! THE PAPERS ARE AFRAID TO COME RIGHT OUT AND SAY SO, BUT MY SOCIAL CLUB BELIEVES HE'S MIXED UP IN THAT MURDER AND I'LL BET IN THIS ROBBERY, ALSO!
I BELIEVE IT, TOO. I HAVE AN INSTINCT ABOUT THOSE BRAINY TYPES.
YOU SCIENTISTS ARE ALWAYS CAUSING TROUBLE FOR THE WORLD! YOU'RE ALL MAD! THEY SHOULD PUT YOU AWAY BEFORE YOU DESTROY US!
SAVE YOUR BREATH, TRACEY. YOU CAN'T REASON WITH AN EMOTION. IT DOESN'T THINK, IT ONLY FEELS.
THE SPECTER, AS THAT IRRESPONSIBLE CREATION OF SCIENCE IS BEING CALLED, HAS FINALLY STRUCK AND WHO CAN GUESS HOW LONG HIS REIGN OF TERROR WILL LAST! IT SHOULD MAKE SANE MEN WONDER HOW FAR MAN SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO PROBE INTO UNKNOWN AREAS OF NATURE. DO WE HAVE TO KNOW EVERYTHING?
IMAGINE AN INVISIBLE ARMY OF KILLERS! WE'D BE WIPED OUT IN OUR SLEEP! WHO COULD STOP THEM!
IT'S A PLOT! THE SCIENTISTS WANT TO RULE THE WORLD!
INVISIBLE MENACE TO WORLD
SPE
FRA
THE ROLE OF TED KORD?
I'VE FIXED THE SMALL BUG TO DETECT THE POWER OF THE SPECTER'S SUIT WHEN IT'S TURNED ON. THE BUG SHOULD LEAD ME RIGHT TO HIM!
WHOEVER STOLE THE SUIT HAS TO HAVE SOME CONNECTION WITH DR. FAROL'S LAB SO I'LL HAVE THE BUG PATROL OVER THAT AREA.
BUT WHO COULD IT POSSIBLY BE?
WE'LL KNOW THAT WHEN THE SPECTER'S CAUGHT! RIGHT NOW, IT'S UP TO THE BUG! YOU'D BETTER GO AND ORDER THOSE SUPPLIES, TRACEY!
4

YOU'RE NOT PLAYING IT SMART, KORD! YOU DON'T HAVE ANY WITNESSES FOR AN ALIBI IN CASE THE SPECTER SHOULD STRIKE!
LT. DUNN! TRACEY FORGOT TO LOCK THE OUTSIDE DOOR AND I HAVE ON THE BEETLE OUTFIT!
HOW GOOD WOULD YOUR WORD BE FOR AN ALIBI IF I NEEDED IT, LT.?

YOU'RE NERVOUS, KORD. YOU TRYING TO HIDE SOMETHING FROM ME? A VISITOR ...OR A PARTNER??
NO! IT...IT'S JUST THAT AN EXPERIMENT IS GIVING ME TROUBLE!

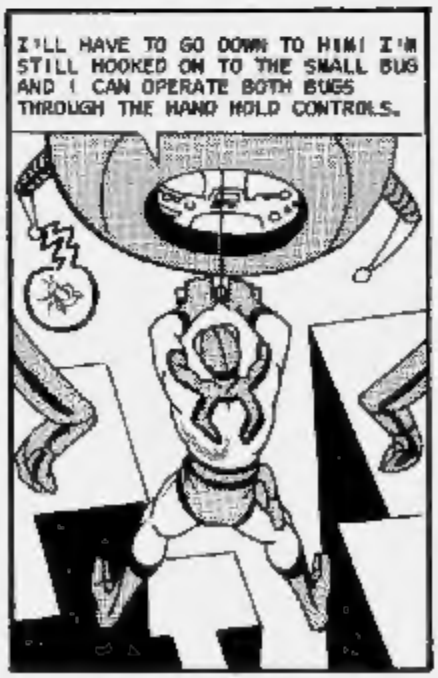
HEY, WHAT'S THAT BUZZING FOR?
IT'S A SIGNAL FROM THE BUG. IT'S PICKED UP THE SPECTER, BUT HOW DO I GET RID OF DUNN? I'VE GOT IT!
IT'S A WARNING! MY EXPERIMENT IS OVERREACTING. I HAVE TO NEUTRALIZE IT BEFORE IT BLOWS UP, STAND BACK!

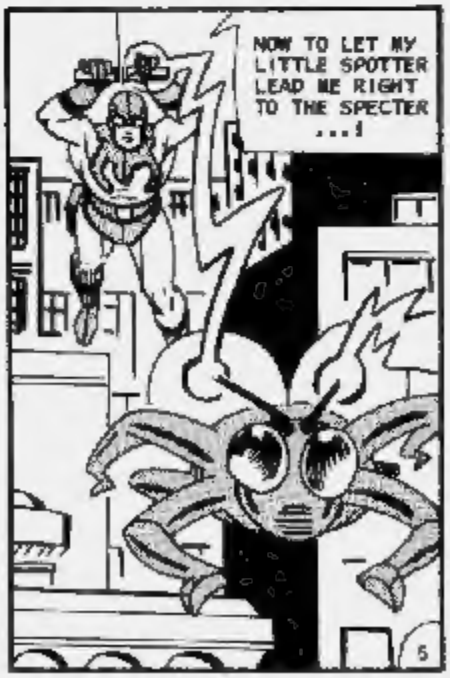
NO, I'LL DROP BACK LATER! YOU SEEM TO LIKE LIVING DANGEROUSLY. THAT'S A BAD HABIT, KORD. ORDINARY THRILLS CAN BECOME BORING BUT A NEW KICK CAN LEAD TO SOMETHING FATAL!
HE FELL FOR IT! I WONDER WHAT HE'LL THINK WHEN HE LEARNS THE SPECTER DID STRIKE WHILE HE WAS WITH ME!

NOW I'VE GOT TO MOVE FAST AND GET TO THE SPECTER BEFORE HE TURNS OFF HIS POWER.

I'M STILL GETTING A SIGNAL FROM THE SMALL BUG...

I SHOULD BE ALMOST ON TOP OF HIM BUT SINCE HE WON'T COME TO ME...


I'LL HAVE TO GO DOWN TO HIM! I'M STILL HOOKED ON TO THE SMALL BUG AND I CAN OPERATE BOTH BUGS THROUGH THE HAND HOLD CONTROLS.


NOW TO LET MY LITTLE SPOTTER LEAD ME RIGHT TO THE SPECTER ...!

I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG THIS SUIT WILL WORK BUT I'M GOING TO GRAB WHAT I CAN, WHILE I CAN!
WHA! THE NO-GOOD BLASTED BEETLE!
YOU'VE GOT ALL THE WRONG HABITS, SPECTER...MURDER, ROBBERY AND NAME CALLING!
WHAT ARE YOU BUTTING IN FOR? I'M NOTHING TO YOU!
YOU ARE "NOTHING", PERIOD! WHA? I CAN'T JUDGE EXACTLY WHERE YOUR FLAPPING JAW SHOULD BE!
I DON'T HAVE PROBLEMS LIKE THAT! IT DOESN'T MATTER TO ME WHERE OR HOW I HIT YOU!
JUST SO I DO AND JUST SO YOU GO DOWN AND STAY DOWN! I SHOULD HAVE TAKEN A BAG OF SILVER TO CROWN YOU FOR GOOD!
WHA? HE RAN OFF FAST! I DIDN'T EVEN SEE WHICH WAY HE WENT!
HA! HA! IT'S LIKE BEING CAMOFLAUGED. IT'S HARD TO RECOGNIZE A SHAPE IF IT'S ALL BROKEN UP AND HE NEVER FIGURED I'D TRY TO GET AWAY BY STICKING AROUND!
I'D BETTER GET BACK TO THE BUG. I MAY STILL BE ABLE TO PICK HIM UP!
MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE TRIED TO FINISH HIM OFF FOR GOOD, BUT WHY RISK IT. HE'S NO PUSH-OVER.
BESIDES, I DON'T THINK I'LL EVER HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT RUNNING INTO HIM AGAIN! SO LONG, SAP, YOU HAD YOUR LAST CHANCE AT ME!
6

I'D BETTER TURN OFF THE POWER! THE MORE I SAVE, THE LONGER IT WILL LAST!

NOW TO GET TO WHERE I HAVE MY CAR PARKED BEFORE I RUN INTO MORE TROUBLE!

I DON'T SEEM TO BE GETTING ANY READING FROM THE SMALL BUG!

IT'S NO USE! THE SPECTER'S POWER IS OFF! THAT MAKES HIM "INVISIBLE" TO THE BUGS DETECTORS.

WHILE AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS...

BY USING SPECIAL DETECTORS DR. FAROL'S STAFF HAVE PREPARED FOR YOU, IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO PINPOINT THE SPECTER WHEN HE TURNS ON HIS POWER!

WHY ARE ALL OF YOU DOING THIS, PROF. ROBOR? YOU SCIENTISTS FEEL GUILTY?

NO! AND IT'S OBVIOUS YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT MEN OF SCIENCE REALLY ARE. IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH FINDING MURDERS OR PREVENTING CRIMES, BUT WE'RE WASTING TIME. THE SOONER YOU ACT, THE SOONER YOU'LL BE ABLE TO CATCH THE SPECTER.

THAT CREATION OF SCIENCE, THE SPECTER HAS STRUCK AGAIN! IF THAT SUIT IS DUPLICATED WE CAN EXPECT A MASSIVE CRIME WAVE...

WHEN WILL IT END? WHY ARE SCIENTISTS SO IRRESPONSIBLE? AND THOSE OTHERS WHO STUPIDLY AID THEM IN THEIR EVIL WORK THAT THREATEN HUMANITY ARE JUST AS GUILTY!

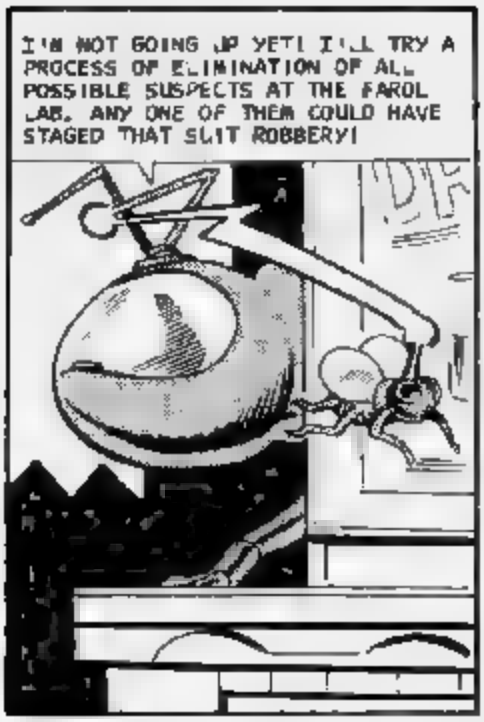
IT'S THE FAULT OF THOSE MAD SCIENTISTS LIKE YOUR MR. KORD. THEY'VE EXPOSED THE WORLD TO FLYING MISSILES, RADIOACTIVE DESTRUCTION, THREATS OF GERM WARFARE AND INVISIBLE KILLERS. YOU'RE ALL EVIL, YOU'RE DOOMING HUMANITY!

YOU FOOLS! YOU'VE NEVER TRIED TO UNDERSTAND MEN OF SCIENCE. IT'S EASIER TO BLAME THEM FOR WHAT'S EVIL THAN TO FIGURE OUT WHO THE REAL VILLAINS ARE IN THE WORLD!

DID MEN OF SCIENCE LIKE EDISON GIVE YOU LIGHT BECAUSE THEY WANTED TO KEEP YOU IN DARKNESS, OR INVENT COMMUNICATIONS AND NEW DRUGS BECAUSE THEY WANTED TO KEEP YOU IGNORANT AND DISEASED? MEN OF SCIENCE ARE SEEKERS OF TRUTH, NOT SEEKERS OF POWER. THEY SEEK TO EXPAND MAN'S KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES, NOT TO RESTRICT MAN'S FREEDOM AND HIS MIND! NO MAN SUFFERED AN INJUSTICE BECAUSE SOMEONE DISCOVERED A NEW TRUTH!

YOU SHOULD LEARN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MEN OF SCIENCE AND MEN OF POWER. IT IS THE MEN WHO SEEK POWER, THOSE WHO TAKE OR CLAIM WHAT DOES NOT RIGHTFULLY BELONG TO THEM THAT CORRUPTS EVERYTHING, INCLUDING FINDINGS OF SCIENCE! BUT IN YOUR TWISTED LOGIC, MEN OF SCIENCE BECOME THE VILLAINS, AND WHAT OF YOUR POWER SEEKERS... THE DICTATORS, MURDERERS AND CRIMINALS? THEY'RE POOR MISUNDERSTOOD, MISGUIDED VICTIMS OF SOCIETY AND SCIENCE!

HUMPH! WELL I NEVER...


I'M NOT GOING UP YET! I'LL TRY A PROCESS OF ELIMINATION OF ALL POSSIBLE SUSPECTS AT THE FAROL LAB. ANY ONE OF THEM COULD HAVE STAGED THAT SUIT ROBBERY!

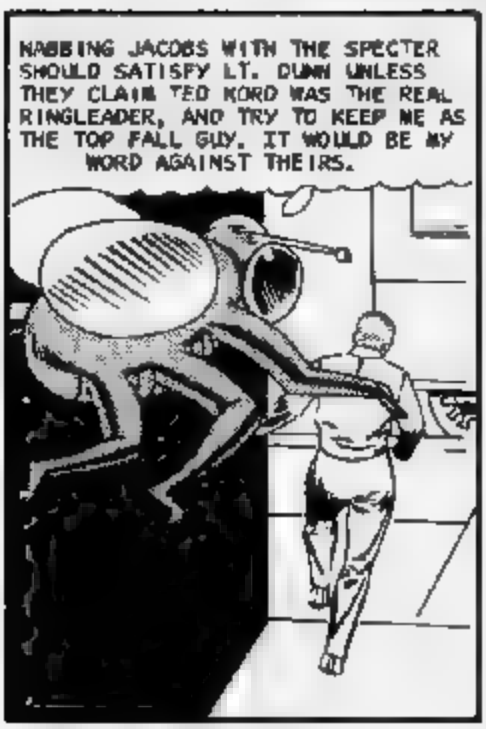
THE LATEST FIGURE ON THE ARMORED CAR HOLDUP IS $30,000!
AND I DON'T GET ONE CENT OF THAT MONEY
OH, OH, SO HE'S THE ONE!

IF IT WEREN'T FOR ME, HE'D NEVER HAVE GOTTEN HOLD OF THAT SUIT!
JACOBS! BUT WHO HAS THE SUIT?? I HAVE AN IDEA ON HOW I CAN GET HIM TO LEAD ME TO WHOEVER IT IS!

I'LL CUT IN ON THAT RADIO BROADCAST AND PUT ON ONE OF MY OWN! IT SHOULD GET A REACTION OUT OF THAT LYING JANITOR!

THE SPECTER IS MAKING A FORTUNE AND WITH NO TAXES OR PARTNERS TO SHARE IT WITH, HE SHOULD DONATE SOME OF HIS MONEY TO THE SCIENTIST WHO INVENTED THE SUIT! HE CAN CERTAINLY SPARE IT, HE'LL WIND UP STEALING MILLIONS AND THEY DESERVE SOMETHING BESIDES PUBLIC SCORN. .
I DESERVE A SHARE!

HALF OF WHAT THE SPECTER MAKES IS RIGHTFULLY MINE! AND I'M GOING TO SEE THAT I GET IT OR ELSE.
AND I'LL TAG ALONG TO SEE BOTH OF YOU GET THE "OR ELSE!"


NABBING JACOBS WITH THE SPECTER SHOULD SATISFY LT. DUNN UNLESS THEY CLAIM TED KORD WAS THE REAL RINGLEADER, AND TRY TO KEEP ME AS THE TOP FALL GUY. IT WOULD BE MY WORD AGAINST THEIRS.

WHAT? WHO? THAT CAN'T BE THE COPS BUT I'D BETTER PLAY IT SAFE AND PUT ON THE POWER.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I WANT MY SHARE OF OUR TAKE! I'M IN THIS AS AN EQUAL

I GOT A BEEP! THE SPECTER IS TURNED ON HIS POWER. LET'S GET A FIX AND MOVE IN ON HIM!
I KNEW YOU'D BE A PROBLEM FOR ME SOONER OR LATER!
NO! YOU CAN'T! NOT AFTER WHAT I'VE DONE FOR YOU!
I CAN'T GET INSIDE IN TIME! BY SENDING THE SMALL BUG AHEAD I MAY BE ABLE TO DISTRACT THE SPECTER AND DRAW HIS FIRE!
NOW, "PARTNER," YOU'LL GET AN EQUAL SHARE OF OUR BULLETS! WHAT?
NO...AAAGH!!
TOO LATE THAT COLD-BLOODED KILLER
THAT STUPID JACOBS LED YOU TO ME. IF KORD HADN'T SHOWN UP I'D HAVE KILLED HIM IN THE LAB! I'D BE IN THE CLEAR NOW ...!
THAT WASN'T YOUR FIRST MISTAKE BUT I'M GOING TO STOP YOU FROM GETTING THE CHANCE TO MAKE ANY MORE!

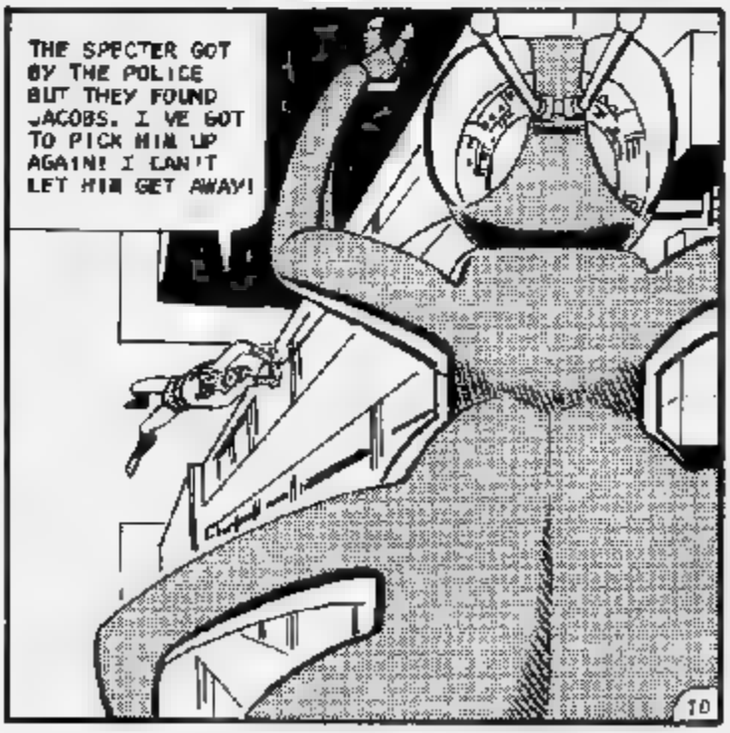
AS THE SPECTER, YOU'VE MADE A SPECTACLE OF YOURSELF LONG ENOUGH. YOU'RE ABOUT TO BECOME JUST ANOTHER PRISON NUMBER TILL ELECTRIC CHAIR TIME!

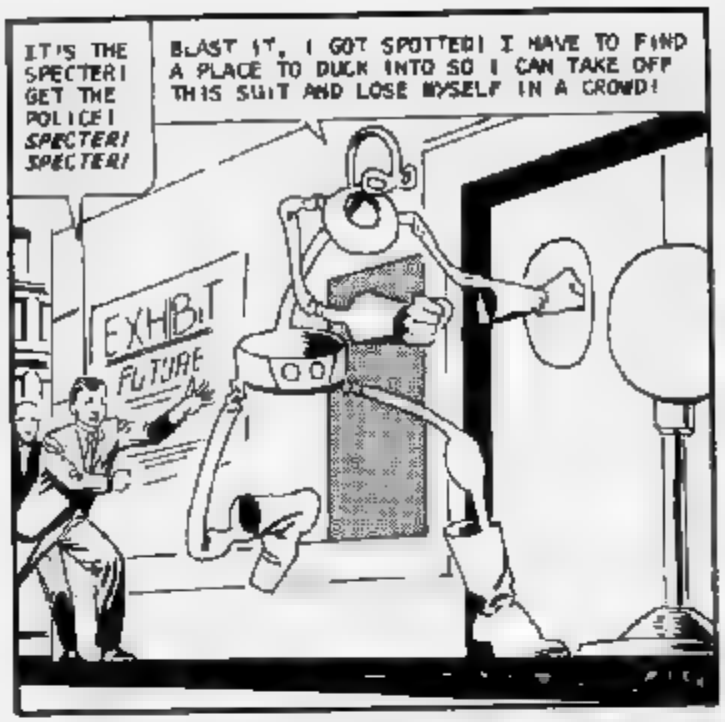
YOU GOT IT BACKWARDS, BEETLE! I'M GOING TO PUT A FINISH TO YOUR CAREER. MINE'S JUST BEGINNING!
YOUR CAREER WILL HAVE A BEGINNING AND AN ENDING WITH NO MIDDLE!

YOU'LL NEVER KNOW BUGHEAD, BECAUSE NOW I'LL EXTERMINATE YOU...
I SHOULD HAVE WATCHED WHERE HIS GUN FELL SO HE COULDN'T GET AT IT AGAIN!

WHEEOOOO
THE POLICE! THIS PLACE IS GETTING OVERCROWDED! YOU FOLLOW ME AND YOU GET A SLUG, BUG!
NUTS ANOTHER SECOND AND I COULD HAVE STOPPED HIM WITH MY FLASH-GUN, AND I LOST COUNT OF THE SHOTS HE FIRED!

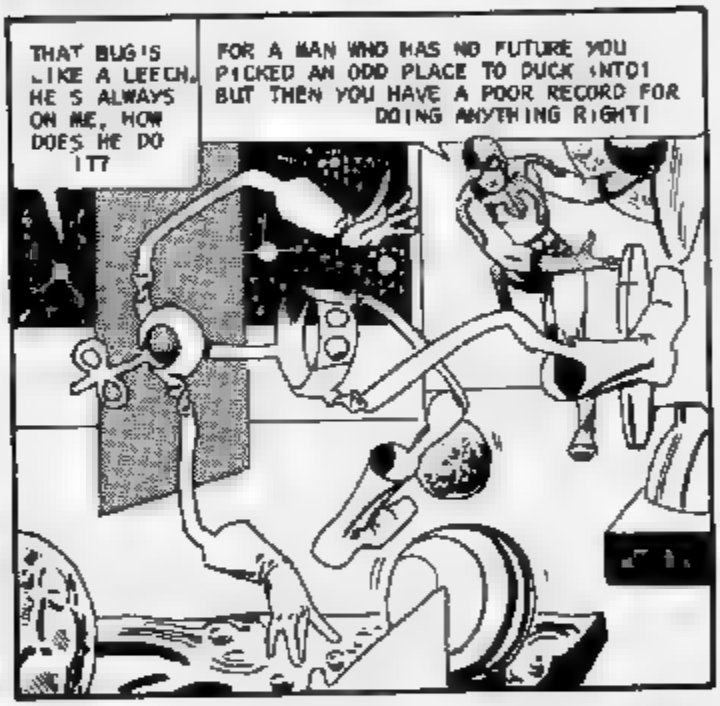
IT'S A GOOD THING THEY EXPECT TO SEE ME RUNNING AWAY AND NOT AS PART OF SOME CLEANING EQUIPMENT BECAUSE I'M OUT OF AMMO!
THE SPECTER'S A KILLER, ED, SO DON'T TAKE ANY CHANCES WHEN YOU SPOT HIM!


THE SPECTER GOT BY THE POLICE BUT THEY FOUND JACOBS. I'VE GOT TO PICK HIM UP AGAIN! I CAN'T LET HIM GET AWAY!


IT'S THE SPECTER! GET THE POLICE! SPECTER! SPECTER!
BLAST IT, I GOT SPOTTED! I HAVE TO FIND A PLACE TO DUCK INTO SO I CAN TAKE OFF THIS SUIT AND LOSE MYSELF IN A CROWD!
EXHIBIT
FUTURE

BUT FIRST I HAVE TO LOSE MY FOLLOWING LONG ENOUGH TO DO IT! WHO GAVE ME THAT BLASTED NAME!
THAT'S THE SPECTER! DON'T LET HIM OUT OF YOUR SIGHT ...! AFTER HIM!

IF I CAN FIND A SPOT WHERE I CAN BLEND INTO THE BACKGROUND, I CAN GIVE THAT MOB THE SLIP... WHAT?...NOT AGAIN!
YOU DON'T THINK YOUR LOOKS OR YOUR THREATS SCARED ME OFF FOR GOOD?


THAT BUG IS LIKE A LEECH. HE'S ALWAYS ON ME, HOW DOES HE DO IT?
FOR A MAN WHO HAS NO FUTURE YOU PICKED AN ODD PLACE TO DUCK INTO! BUT THEN YOU HAVE A POOR RECORD FOR DOING ANYTHING RIGHT!

AND TELL ME, HAS THAT BEEN YOUR GREAT GUIDING PRINCIPLE, SPECTER, ALIAS ROBBER, ALIAS DOUBLE MURDERER?
BLAST YOU! WHY DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO BUTT IN?! WHY CAN'T YOU LEAVE ME ALONE?!

OKAY, BUG, YOU'LL GET WHAT EVERYONE ELSE GETS WHO STANDS IN MY WAY! I'VE HANDLED TOUGHER GUYS THAN YOU!
BUT I HAVEN'T COME ACROSS A LOWER TYPE THAN YOU!
IT HASN'T BEEN A PLEASURE MEETING OR BEATING AN ANIMAL LIKE YOU! I DON'T ENJOY TYPES THAT CRAWL OUT OF THE SEWER!
YOU SWINE! YOU THINK YOU'RE A BETTER MAN THAN I AM? I'LL BEAT YOU TILL YOU DROP!
YOU WOULD THINK THE POWER OF YOUR FISTS DETERMINES THE MEASURE OF A MAN!
YOU STANDING OVER A THOUSAND SMASHED HEADS WOULD PROVE ONLY ONE THING...
YOU'RE A SELF-MADE SUB-HUMAN WITH A BEASTS MENTALITY.
YOU DIRTY HIGH AND MIGHTY! WHO ARE YOU TO JUDGE ME ANYWAY?!
WHY NOT! YOU THINK YOUR ACTIONS ARE NOT TO BE EVALUATED? THAT YOUR DELIBERATE SHOOTING OF A MAN IS NOT TO BE LABELED A COLD-BLOODED KILLING AND YOU'RE NOT TO BE JUDGED ACCORDINGLY?!
IT'S JUDGE AND BE PREPARED TO BE JUDGED, KILLER!
I WANT BOTH THE BLUE BEETLE AND THE SPECTER TAKEN. THE BEETLE GOT INVOLVED TOO QUICKLY TO BE JUST AN OUTSIDER! IF HE'S MIXED UP IN THIS IN ANY WAY, I WANT TO KNOW ABOUT IT...NOW, MOVE IN!

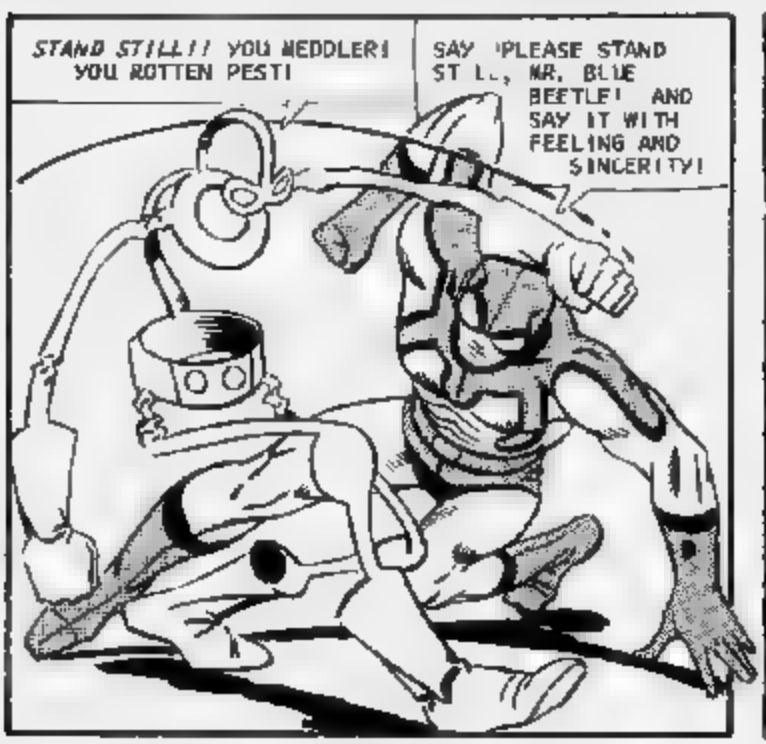
THE SPECTER TRIPPED UP THE BEETLE AND TOOK OFF WHEN HE SAW US BUT WHERE DID HE DISAPPEAR TO?
MAYBE HE CAN BECOME COMPLETELY INVISIBLE AFTER ALL!
IT DEPENDS ON HOW YOU LOOK AT ME!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT LT. DUNN HAS IN MIND BUT THERE'S NOTHING THE POLICE COULD WANT ME FOR!
THAT BLASTED BUG THREATENS TO HIT INTO US! GIVE YOURSELF UP, BEETLE!
I'D BETTER LET THE LAW CONCENTRATE ON CATCHING THE SPECTER.
I CAN KEEP UP WITH HOW THEY'RE DOING THROUGH THE SMALL BUG. I'LL JUST RE-ESTABLISH A FIX ON THE SPECTER!
OH, OH. THE SPECTER THINKS HE'S SNEAKING OUT OF A TIGHT SPOT BUT HE REALLY IS SNEAKING INTO A TIGHTER ONE!
LOOK OUT FROM ABOVE!!
THIS TIME, THE SPECTER'S OUT IN THE OPEN WITH NO PLACE TO RUN OR HIDE!
THE FOOL'S HEADING RIGHT FOR US!
WHAT'S HE TRYING TO DO?

SUCH MANNERS! YOU RAN OUT OF A GATHERING THAT WAS CALLED ESPECIALLY FOR YOUR BENEFIT!
DON'T YOU EVER GIVE UP?!

I'VE GOT TO GET OFF THE STREET!
OH, NO! YOU MADE YOURSELF BECOME THE MOST WANTED CRIMINAL, HOW CAN YOU RUN OUT ON YOUR FAME NOW?! YOU'RE BEING VERY TEMPERAMENTAL!

ARE YOU SURE I CAN T COAX YOU TO STICK AROUND AND GIVE A DEMONSTRATION OF THOSE MOST ENDEARING QUALITIES THAT MADE YOU THE KILLER YOU ARE?

I'LL KILL YOU, BEETLE, IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO! I SWEAR IT!
THAT'S BETTER! NOW THAT S THE OLD SPECTER I'VE COME TO KNOW AND DESPISE!


STAND STILL!! YOU MEDDLER! YOU ROTTEN PEST!
SAY 'PLEASE STAND ST L, MR. BLUE BEETLE!' AND SAY IT WITH FEELING AND SINCERITY!

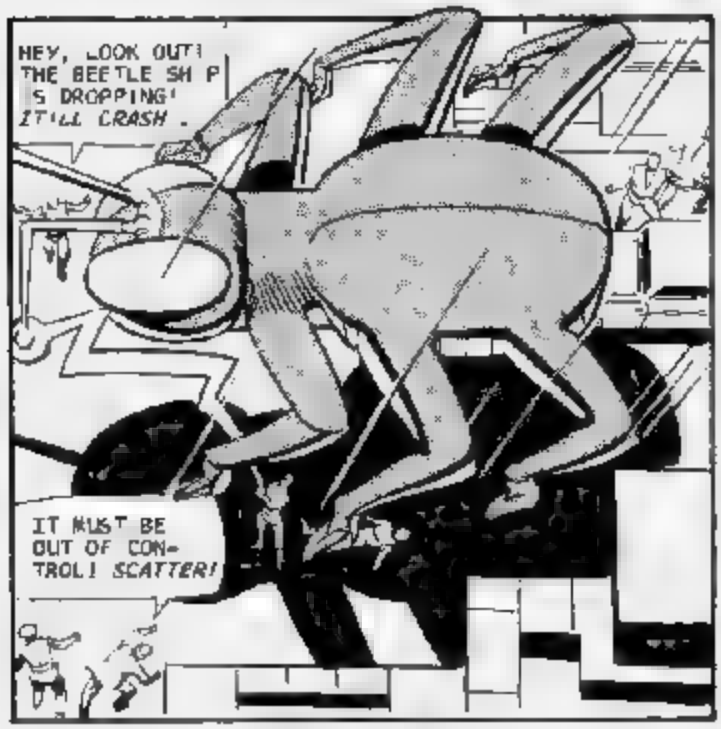
YOU!! I'LL KILL YOU...I'LL KILL YOU!!
IT'S NO USE, YOU CAN T MAKE YOURSELF BELIEVE THAT SPEECH NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU REHEARSE IT!

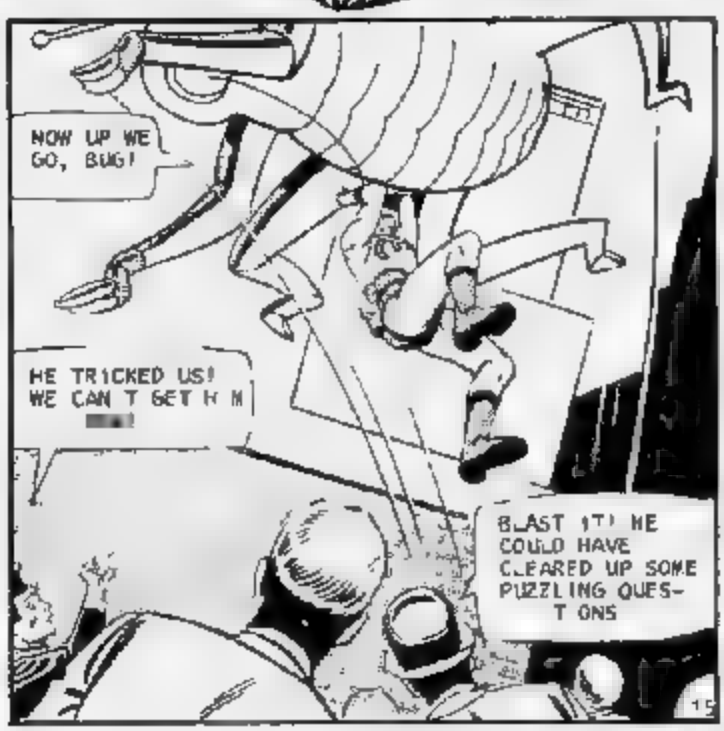
YOU KNOW THIS IS THE END OF THE LINE FOR YOU!
NO! NEVER! IT CAN T BE!

I WONDER WHO BOTH THOSE CHARACTERS REALLY ARE?
THEN YOU RE WITNESSING THE IMPOSSIBLE!
NO! NO! AAGH!!

THAT S IT! IT S ALL OVER THE SPECTER WON T BE GETTING UP AFTER THAT BELT!
NOW WE LL FIND OUT WHO THE SPECTER IS! I LL BET HE S ONE OF THOSE SCIENTISTS! IT COULD EVEN BE THAT GUY, KORD!

HEY! THE BEETLE MADE THE SPECTER VISIBLE
HOLD IT, BEETLE! YOU VE A LOT OF EXPLAINING TO DO ON HOW YOU GOT MIXED UP IN THIS!
THAT S SOMETHING I CAN T TELL! I DON T WANT TO FIGHT THE LAW SO I LL HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE FAST! IT LL BE THE BUG TO THE RESCUE!


HEY, LOOK OUT! THE BEETLE SH P IS DROPPING! IT LL CRASH .
IT MUST BE OUT OF CONTROL! SCATTER!


NOW UP WE GO, BUG!
HE TRICKED US! WE CAN T GET H M
BLAST IT! HE COULD HAVE CLEARED UP SOME PUZZLING QUES- T ONS

HEY! THE SPECTER IS AMOS FEND, THE GAMBLER! HOW DID *HE* GET MIXED UP WITH THOSE SCIENTISTS?!
LT.! SOMETHING S WRONG! FEND IS...IS *DEAD!*

D D YOU HEAR THAT?! THE BEETLE MUST HAVE BEAT HIM TO DEATH! THAT MAKES HIM GUILTY OF MANSLAUGHTER. NOW THE BEETLE 'S A CRIMINAL!
THAT S RIGHT! HE HAS NO LEGAL AUTHORITY TO CHASE CRIMINALS!
HE'LL HAVE TO BE BROUGHT IN TO STAND TRIAL ...! IT WILL SERVE HIM RIGHT ...! THAT MASKED SHOWOFF!

TED! IT CAN'T BE TRUE! YOU DIDN'T ...!
HE D ED AFTER OUR FIGHT, TRACEY, WHAT ELSE COULD HAVE CAUSED IT BUT MY FISTS?!
NEWS

NOW WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU AND THE BEETLE?
IT S TOO EARLY TO SAY! EVEN THOUGH FEND WAS A KILLER, MY AIM WAS TO CATCH HIM, NOT TO BE HIS EXECUTIONER! MAYBE I DON'T HAVE THE LEGAL RIGHT TO FIGHT OR ME AND NO ONE COULD LEGALLY MAKE ME CATCH A MURDERER, I TOOK THE RISKS OF SUCCESS AND FA LURE ON MY OWN!

KORD, LT. DUNN SAYS YOU SHOULD COME W TH ME, JACOBS HAS REGAINED CONSCIOUS AND HE INSISTS ON SEE NG YOU!
WHY ME...? LET S GO!

I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU HIS STATEMENT COULD CLEAR OR IMPLICATE YOU IN THE WHOLE MESS?
LET'S WORRY ABOUT THAT AFTER WE HEAR WHAT HE HAS TO SAY!

KORD IS HERE, JACOBS. GO AHEAD!
I...WANT TO TELL ...THE TRUTH... ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED AT...THE... LAB...

I...KNEW ABOUT THE... SUIT! I TOLD FEND ABOUT IT...I OWED H M...GAMBLING DEBT!...
IF YOU'RE LYING LL FEED YOU TO THE RIVER!
WE WATCHED THE,..DEMONSTRAT ON...FEND SAID HE HAD TO...HAVE THE ...SUIT!...
WHEN DR. JAMES TRIED TO ...STOP HIM...FEND... KILLED HIM...
I HIT KORD...I GOT... SCARED...DIDN'T WANT TO ...GET CAUGHT...!...!...
HE'S DEAD! THAT CLEARS YOU, KORD! SORRY I GAVE YOU A ROUGH TIME!
FORGET IT! YOU DION T HAVE MUCH ELSE TO GO ON!
ONE THING, LT. WHAT KILLED FEND?
I D LIKE TO SEE HOW IT'S GOING!
PROF. RODDR'S PERFORMING AN AUTOPSY. WE'LL NEED AN OFFI- CIAL EXAMIN- AT ON, BUT IT HAS TO COME UP, BLUE BEETLE!
COME ON. I OWE YOU THAT MUCH, BUT I CAN'T SEE WHY YOU D BE NTERESTED.
THERE IS A GROW- ING DEMAND FROM ALL QUARTERS TO BRAND THE BLUE BEETLE A KILLER.
THEY'RE OFF THE MAD SCIEN- TIST KICK BUT I'M STILL ON THE HOT SPOT.
THE BLUE BEETLE IS NO MORE THAN A COM- MON KILLER! THERE'S NO D FFERENCE! WHAT S BEING DONE ABOUT HIM?!
WELL, THERE S A DIFFERENCE! FEND AND HIS K ND ARE A THREAT TO EVERYONE IN A SOCIETY. ANY- ONE COULD WIND UP AS THEIR VIC- TIMS, THE BEETLE IS A THREAT ONLY TO THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY VIOLATED OTHER PEOPLE S RIGHTS, THE CRIMINALS! THE INNOCENT HAVE NO REASON TO FEAR ME AND COULD NEVER WIND UP AS MY VICT MS.
SO, IF I MUST, I'LL OPERATE WITH THE OUTLAW BRAND ON ME AND KEEP WORK NG AGAINST THOSE WHO PREY ON OTHERS, IT WOULD ONLY BE THE FENDS OF SOCIETY WHO WOULD PROFIT IF I QUIT BEING THE BLUE BEETLE! I'LL JUST HAVE TO TAKE THE ADDED RISKS!
17

PROF. RODOR, I M CONVINCED YOU'RE RIGHT! EVERY TEST WE VE DONE PROVES IT!
TED, COME LOOK AT THIS, WE CAN USE ANOTHER EXPERT SCIENTIFIC OPINION!
GO ON, KORD, YOU CAN HELP CLINCH THE CASE AGA NST THE BEETLE!

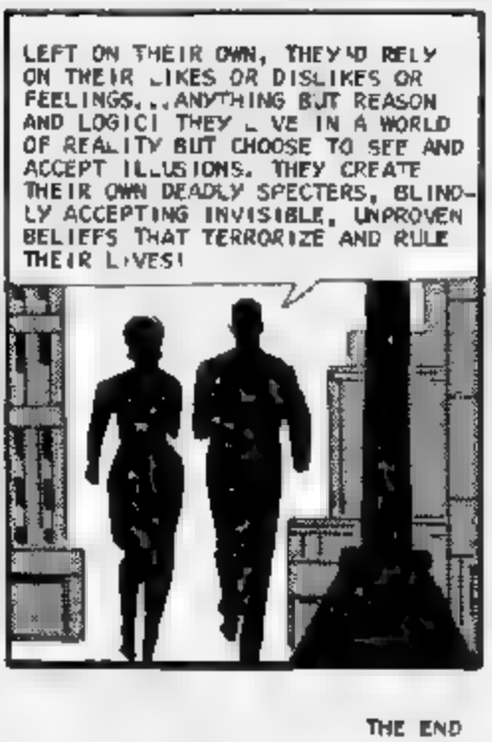
THAT'S A SLIDE OF FEND'S BODY TISSUE! WHAT DO YOU SEE?
GREAT SCOTT! DISINTEGRATION OF CELL STRUCTURE! THEN IT WASN'T THE BLUE BEETLE THAT KILLED FEND!
WHAT ARE YOU GETTING AT... WHAT DID KILL FEND?!

YOU COULD SAY FEND KILLED HIMSELF WHEN HE STOLE TH S SUIT! THE POWER OF THE SUIT GIVES OFF A RAY AND AS WE KNOW NOW, A DEADLY RAY! UNDER NORMAL SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, ITS DEADLY NESS WOULD HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED LONG BEFORE ANY HARM COULD BE DONE. BUT ONCE FEND STARTED USING THE BELT, IT WAS JUST A MATTER OF TIME TILL AN OVERDOSE OF THE RAY KILLED HIM!

THAT CERTAINLY CLEARS THE BLUE BEETLE! I WISH I COULD TELL H M MYSELF!
AND NOW THE BEETLE CAN CONTINUE HIS FIGHT AGAINST INJUSTICE WITHOUT THE STIGMA OF A KILLER OVER HIM!

I STILL SAY SCIENTISTS ARE A THREAT TO US ALL. MY BAKER SAYS HIS ASTROLOGER HAS PROOF AND I HAD A DREAM ABOUT THEM SO I KNOW IT'S TRUE!
A FRIEND OF MINE HEARD ABOUT A GUY WHO HAD MYST C VIBRAT ONS REVEALING THAT THEY FAKED THE EV DENCE TO CLEAR THE BEETLE! THAT S A FACT!
TED, THEY RE STILL AT IT!

TRACEY, MOST PEOPLE AREN'T INTERESTED IN TRUTH OR FACT! EVEN IF IT'S PRESENTED TO THEM, THEY DON'T WANT TO JUDGE FOR THEMSELVES, ESPECIALLY IF IT GOES AGAINST WHAT OTHERS BELIEVE! THEY D RATHER GO ALONG WITH WHAT OTHERS SAY OR POPULAR OPINIONS. IT S SAFER FOR THEM!


LEFT ON THEIR OWN, THEY'D RELY ON THEIR LIKES OR DISLIKES OR FEELINGS...ANYTHING BUT REASON AND LOGIC! THEY L VE IN A WORLD OF REALITY BUT CHOOSE TO SEE AND ACCEPT ILLUSIONS. THEY CREATE THEIR OWN DEADLY SPECTERS, BLINDLY ACCEPTING INVISIBLE, UNPROVEN BELIEFS THAT TERRORIZE AND RULE THEIR LIVES!

THE END

DICK
CORDANO

PETER CANNON---
THUNDERBOLT
$CaCO_3$ —
$\frac{8}{\sqrt{3}} = \frac{}{1.732}$
PAIII

CLICK!
FRANK McLAUGHLIN

YANG

CAPTAIN ATOM

STATON
E-MAN

?
THE
IMAGE
DEFEATED BY...
NIGHTSHADE
THE DARLINS OF DARKNESS
CREATED BY
DAVID A. KALER

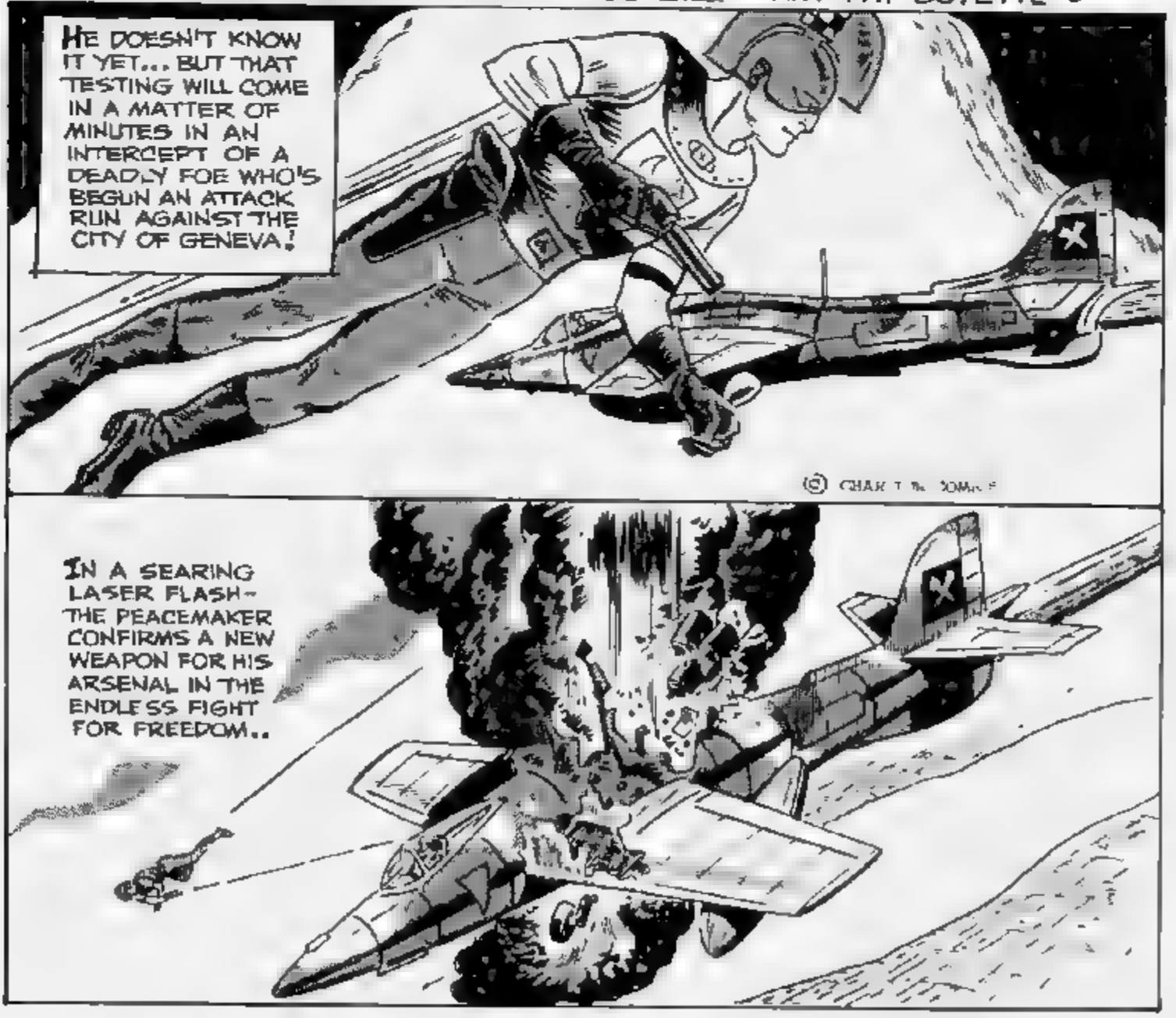
THE SPOOKMAN
THE SHAPE
THE TYRO TERM
STATON
VOHLAND

BLACK
GHOST

THE PEACEMAKER

OUR WORLD IS POPULATED BY MEN WHO WISH TO LIVE IN PEACE.. BUT OFTEN THEY ARE THE NATURAL PREY TO TWISTED CREATURES WHO SEEK WEALTH AND POWER EVEN IF IT MEANS MISERY AND DEATH TO THEIR FELLOWS!
BUT-NOW, MANKIND HAS A NEW CHAMPION.. A GENIUS WHO HAS CREATED POWERFUL WEAPONS TO COMBAT THE SUPER CRIMINALS! HIS NAME IS... CHRISTOPHER SMITH!
SO, IF ALL WENT RIGHT ON THE OLD DRAWING-BOARD THIS JET BACK PACK SHOULD PUT ME ON A PAR WITH THE BEST FIGHTER! IT'LL NEED EXTENSIVE TESTING, HOWEVER!

EDITOR DICK GIORDANO • SCRIPT JOE GILL • ART PAT BOYETTE •


HE DOESN'T KNOW IT YET... BUT THAT TESTING WILL COME IN A MATTER OF MINUTES IN AN INTERCEPT OF A DEADLY FOE WHO'S BEGUN AN ATTACK RUN AGAINST THE CITY OF GENEVA!
IN A SEARING LASER FLASH- THE PEACEMAKER CONFIRMS A NEW WEAPON FOR HIS ARSENAL IN THE ENDLESS FIGHT FOR FREEDOM..

© CHARLTON COMICS

QUESTION
CRIME
SPECIAL REPORT BY
JOHN L. BYRNE
AND
DUFFY VOHLAND

The Sentinels

the prankster
PRANK
Don Heck
Jeffy Hollard

THE MAN FROM SIRIUS 5
PHINEAS T. BLOAT
JEB DOOLEY
CREATED BY— SERGIUS O'SHAUGNESSY
WANDER
TIM KYRO '74

GORGO
COCKRUM '54

JUDO MASTER
PETER CANNON... THUNDERBOLT
PENCILS - DON NEWTON
INKS - BOB LAYTON
YANG
SARGE STEEL